

# November

Magic Lantern Society  
of the United States and Canada



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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Tis the Season Click slide to see more!



## The Magic Lantern Calendar – November 2023

### Events

Nov. 2, 2023, ***The Phantasmagoria: the Hidden Workings of an 18th Century Magic Lantern Show***, Magic lanternist performer Joel Schlemowitz gives an illustrated lecture on the technical and cultural history of the phantasmagoria, Rock Hall Museum, 199 Broadway, Lawrence, NY.

Nov. 8 & 9, 2023, ***The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists***, a one person magic lantern show of the classic book The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists by Robert Tressell, Alma Tavern and Theatre, 18-20 Alma Vale Rd, Clifton, Avon, Bristol BS8 2HY, UK.

Dec. 1-2, ***Lamplight Tours***, with magic lantern presentation by Matt Schnittker, Columbia State Historic Park – meet at Columbia Museum, 22747 Main St, Columbia, CA 95310.

Dec. 6, 2023, ***The Wonderful World of the Victorian Magic Lantern***, a John Townsend presentation on magic lanterns, slides, and everything related to them, the Armitt Museum, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9BL, UK.

Dec. 9, 2023, ***Victorian Magic Lantern Show***, Victorian Holiday Ball, King Manor, 150-03 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY 11423.

Jan. 20, 2024, ***Annual General Meeting 2024***, The Magic Lantern Society, The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London, TW8 0DU, UK.

Apr. 26, 2024, ***Magic Lantern Keynote***, presented by members of the NW Group, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Port Townsend Victorian Festival, Port Townsend WA 98368 USA.

**continued next page**

## The Magic Lantern Calendar – November 2023 continued

### Exhibits

Through Dec. 2026, *The Story of the Moving Image*, includes shadow puppets, Victorian-era magic lanterns, original cameras and more, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fed Square, Melbourne, Australia <https://www.acmi.net.au/whats-on/story-of-the-moving-image-exhibition/>.

Ongoing, *The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection*, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president Richard Balzer. <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cin>

### Online

*Magic Lantern Performing Group*, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: [tborton@magiclanternshows.com](mailto:tborton@magiclanternshows.com)

*De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum*, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.  
*Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource*, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

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*The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows*, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. [www.magiclanternmuseum.com](http://www.magiclanternmuseum.com)

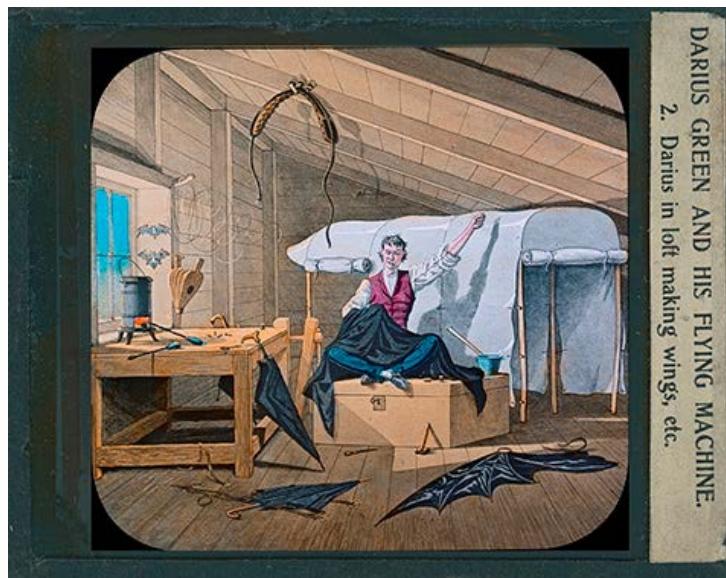
To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to [briandrogers@gmail.com](mailto:briandrogers@gmail.com).



Looking for a Shorter  
Reading

From Ron Easterday  
reasterday@comcast.net

A recent mention of the Darius Green slide reminded me that I want to work up a piece with that set.



## Darius Green and his Flying-Machine



<http://voyagesextraordinaires.blogspot.com/2017/11/darius-green-and-his-flying-machine.html>

Link to the long version of Darius Green and his Flying-Machine

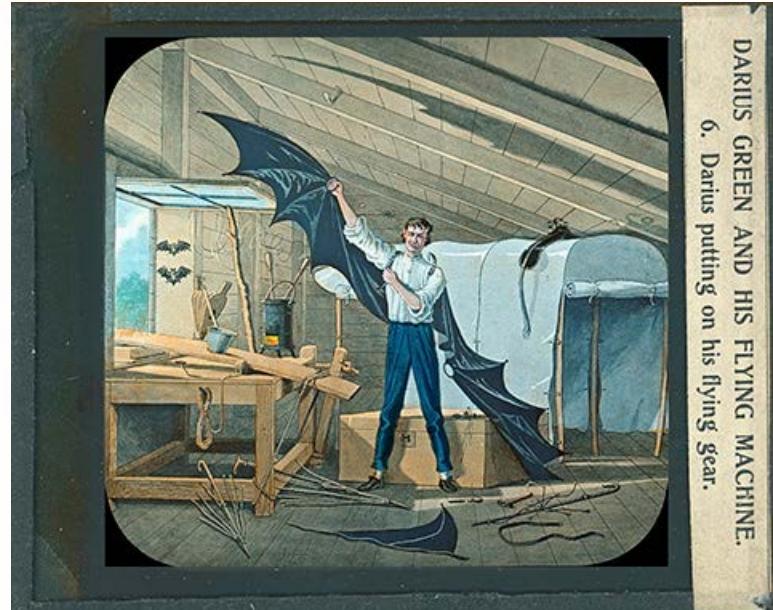
The original 1867 poem is quite long and would need to be edited a lot, I think, for a modern audience, and match the Beale slides – what do you all think? Or does anyone know of a shorter reading that aligns with the 8 slide set better?

Thanks, Ron

continued next page

## Darius Green and his Flying-Machine continued

Originally published circa 1867, Darius Green and his Flying-Machine by John Townsend Trowbridge, was a simple verse mocking the aspiration towards human-powered flight, the genre of Scientific Romances, and the boy geniuses who populated such stories in the dime novels of the day. For example, The Huge Hunter; or,



The Steam Man of the Prairies by Edward S. Ellis would be published in 1868, featuring a comparable boy genius though with somewhat more success than the country bumpkin of Trowbridge's poem.



Ron Easterday  
rleasterday@comcast.net  
or  
Larry Cederblom  
designerlc@comcast.net

# A Collection Worth Checking Out

## Grand Rapids Public Museum

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM | Be curious.

Photographs → Magic Lantern Slides → Magic Lantern Slideshow - Sequoia National Park History Collection

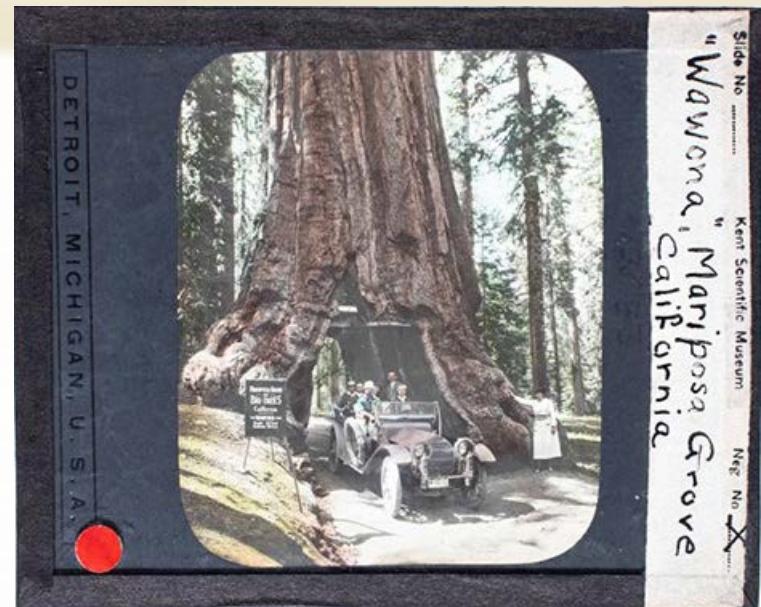
Description

Slideshow of 40 images about sequoia trees and views of the national park. Organized by GRPM education staff, this slide show was part of an outreach program that was accessible to local schools as a teaching tool in the early-mid 20th century. While following a script, educators could present slide by slide about Sequoia National Park.

2021.6.53.7 Lantern Slide, Alta Peak  
2021.6.53.9 Lantern Slide, Bark Characteristics  
2021.6.53.8 Lantern Slide, Bark Study  
2021.6.53.10 Lantern Slide, Big Hollow Log  
2021.6.53.14 Lantern Slide, Black-tailed Deer  
2021.6.53.15 Lantern Slide, Black-tailed Deer with Fawns  
2021.6.53.26 Lantern Slide, Black-tailed Deer  
2021.6.53.16 Lantern Slide, Boys Riding Donkeys

Since 1854, the GRPM has provided accessible educational content to the people of West Michigan. Beginning in the early 20th century, under the leadership of Museum Director Frank DuMond, the GRPM began an ambitious program to create a huge library of educational outreach programs. At that time, one of the most effective and compelling ways to present historical, scientific, and cultural information to audiences, especially students, was through shows of dramatic and colorful magic lantern slides.

The GRPM created and purchased thousands of these slides on topics as disparate as “Weaving in the South American Highlands”, “The French Revolution and Napoleon”, “How our Homes are Lighted” and “Lumbering in Michigan”. They were made available in presentations at the Museum and through a checkout system where local teachers could use them in their own classrooms. This collection is comprised of 160 of these curated magic lantern slide shows, consisting of about 6,000 slides, and another approximately 8,000 loose slides.



This tinted photographic lantern slide labeled “Wawona, Mariposa Grove California” depicts a car with six people driving through a cut-out in a tree. A woman is leaning against the tree trunk. A sign reads ‘Mariposa Grover of Big Trees California. The Wawona Tree height 227 feet diameter 26 feet’

### Just Some of the Collection History Collection Contents

- Magic Lantern Slideshow - Yellowstone (122 records)
- Magic Lantern Slideshow - Hebrew Life (49 records)
- Magic Lantern Slideshow - Southwest Indian Country (87 records)
- Magic Lantern Slideshow - India (72 records)
- Magic Lantern Slideshow - Minerals and Precious Stones (64 records)
- Magic Lantern Drawer - Early Michigan (134 records)

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## Grand Rapids Public Museum continued

Magic Lantern Drawer - Indigenous Peoples (60 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Pueblo of Jemez (75 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Hiawatha (54 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - VanderVeer (230 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - National Parks (67 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Rubber (13 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Sequoia National Park (41 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Russia (36 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - North American Natives (92 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Netherlands (20 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Fishing Ranger (18 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Inuit (50 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Coal and Iron Ore (23 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Gas Company (26 records)  
Magic Lantern Slideshow - Miscellaneous (54 records)  
Magic Lantern Drawer - Foreign (29 records)  
Magic Lantern Drawer - Alaska and Canada (129 records)

## A Touring Performing Group

### From Terry Borton

Hi Larry,

Here's a little note and pix to add to an upcoming issue.

New Netflix Cinema Movie

Once Upon a Star, produced by Netflix and streaming there, is set in Thailand in the 1970s. It follows the trials of a touring movie company which sets up an outdoor screen in small Thai towns and shows popular movies with live dubbing. There's no magic lantern involved, but the sense of a touring performing group, and of local audiences all agog over projected images, seem very much like the magic-lantern era. It's been rated well by Rotten Tomatoes.





## Website [magiclanternsociety.org](http://magiclanternsociety.org) New Page



Home   Magic Lanterns   About the Society   Contact   Contemporary Performers and Shows   2024 Convention

### Contemporary Performers and Shows

The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada is providing this list of performers as a courtesy to help interested parties connect with Society members that perform magic lantern shows or exhibitions, both traditional and new interpretations of the media. This listing does not constitute endorsement or approval by the Society; all performers are acting independently of the Society.

<https://www.magiclanternsociety.org/contemporary-performers-and-shows/>

### From Ron Easterday

The Society has added a new page to our website [magiclanternsociety.org](http://magiclanternsociety.org) of Contemporary Performers and Shows to help connect the public with Society members that offer magic lantern shows, but traditional and new interpretations of the media.

Other Society members that would like to be listed, send your information to Ron at [rleasterday@comcast.net](mailto:rleasterday@comcast.net). We'd love to show the public there are as many performers active in the craft as possible. Performers are listed in alphabetical order

Ron Easterday

### Mark and Beth Ayers

Location: McKinney, Texas (usually performing in the Dallas/Fort Worth area)

Contact: [beth.ayers55@gmail.com](mailto:beth.ayers55@gmail.com)

### Terry Borton

The American Magic Lantern Theater (AMLT)

Location: Based in PA, but travel nationally and worldwide.

Contact Terry Borton, [tborton@magiclanternshows.com](mailto:tborton@magiclanternshows.com) or 860-508-2265.

### Melissa Ferrari

Location: Southern California, USA (available to travel)

Email: [contact@melissaferrari.com](mailto:contact@melissaferrari.com)

Website: [www.melissaferrari.com](http://www.melissaferrari.com)

Instagram: [@melissa.a.ferrari](https://www.instagram.com/@melissa.a.ferrari)

### Group Northwest

Location: Pacific Northwest; members in Jefferson, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties give performances individually and as a group.

Contacts:

[nwron62@gmail.com](mailto:nwron62@gmail.com)

[designerlclclc@gmail.com](mailto:designerlclclc@gmail.com)

[briandrogers@gmail.com](mailto:briandrogers@gmail.com)

### Edward Murray

Location: Pittsburgh, PA and Finger Lakes region of NY state.

Contact: [edleemu1@verizon.net](mailto:edleemu1@verizon.net) or (412) 888-9634

### Matt Schnittker

Location: Central and Southern California

Contact: [mschnitt@gmail.com](mailto:mschnitt@gmail.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/@MagicLanternTheater>

## MLPG LABC Show Held On Oct 25

Wed, Oct 25 | The Los Angeles Breakfast Club

LABC Presents: Magic Lantern Halloween Marvels with LIVE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT!

Enjoy a catered breakfast, silly songs, club traditions, and special presentation each week at the historic Los Angeles Breakfast Club.

Tickets are not on sale  
[See other events](#)



Time & Location  
Oct 25, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
The Los Angeles Breakfast Club, 3201 Riverside Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90027, USA

Guests  
 + 163 other guests ← 163 Guests!



### From Matt Schnittker

Thought I'd share some photos from the LA Breakfast Club Show. It was a big crowd. They told me they had 174 sign up and then had some walk-ins. It was one of their largest meetings ever. I expect 40-50, when I saw it was growing. I didn't get a lot of photos, but I snapped a few quick ones of my setup. I brought my own table. I used my regular lantern and had the marcy on standby as a backup and for my title slide. Both run on LED power. I performed 4 shows - Time Travel, Victorian Scoundrels, The Yorkshire Man and the Irish Ghost and The Raven. The venue is an older building near Griffith Park in Los Angeles. It's got a bit of Art Deco flair.

It was pretty different doing a show in the **EARLY** morning. Fortunately, they were able to darken the building. I got there around 6:45 AM, was set up by 7:30AM and performed the show from 8:30AM-9:10AM. There were a lot of folks who came up afterwards to ask questions so I probably left around 10AM.

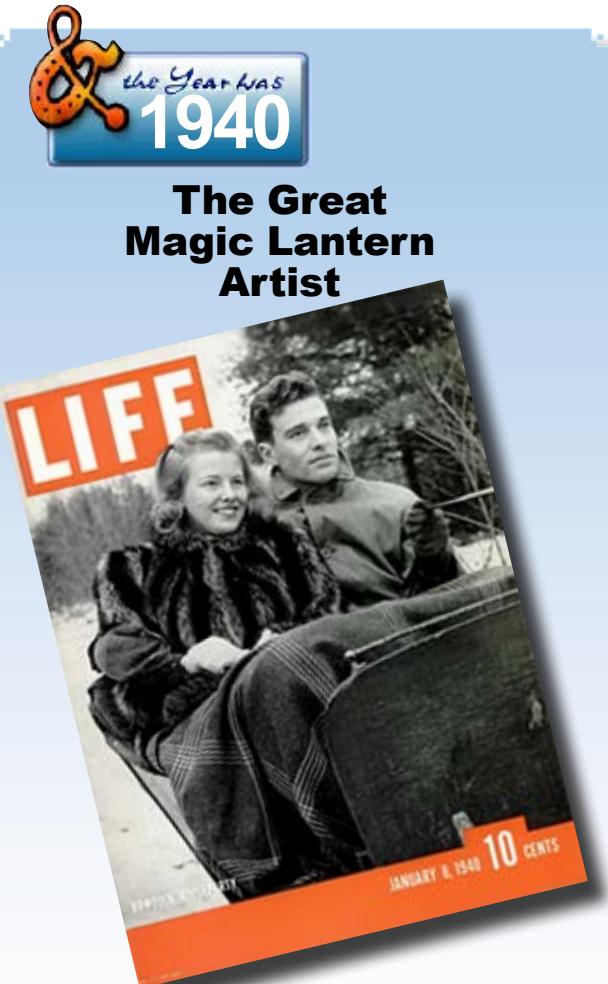


## A Past Show

### A Remembrance of Fall

Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz performing Nellie Bly Around the World in 72 Days, on September 21, 2023

Photo courtesy of the George Eastman Museum. Photographer: Erich Camping



The Life Magazine can be viewed at link below

<https://archive.org/details/Life-1940-01-08-Vol-8-No-2/page/4/mode/2up?q=%22Great+magic+lante+r+artist%22+January+8+1940>

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## The Great Magic Lantern Artist continued



"HOBSON, SHORTHORN, BEEFOUT." (NOTE HOW WOODEN STAIRS AT BETTER 1817)



"THE CAT" (NOTE HOW CAT IS HURLED BY HORSE) (NOTE OLD FASHIONED HORSE RIDERS)



"HOBSON'S HORSE" (NOTE HORSE RIDER TURNED UP A CORNER)



"THE HORSEMAN'S DILEMMA" (NOTE HOW PHILADELPHIA'S TUNNELS ARE BLOWN)

### SPEAKING OF PICTURES . . . THESE ARE BY A GREAT MAGIC-LANTERN ARTIST

WHAT HE EXPECTS TO GET NAMED HAVE PROBLEMS HAVING TO WORK AND VOTE

"MAGIC-LANTERN IS A MAGIC PICTURE" (NOTE HOW GREEN SCREEN IS USED)



In 1850, a long-suspected son of Philadelphia at least seems to have been in his native city. This was J. H. Beale, whose first Magic Lantern was founded by the earliest manufacturer to mount the history of Philadelphia, upon the city's first full-length exhibit of the works of the late Joseph Beale, known as his "Beale's". "The Professor", as the player are 125 examples the work of a man who, in the golden age of the magic-lantern, was one of America's foremost magic-lantern artists.

Joseph Beale's grandfather was George Rose. His father was a blue-blooded Philadelphia doctor. Beale himself was the personal friend of Abigail Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, and Thaddeus Stevens. But he remained an obscure art teacher and lack illustrator of importance

and beauty. In 1854, a man named J. H. Beale, often called Beale, was the principal lecturer for Peacock's Program. These were so successful when derived from the projections of Sunday Schools and Episcopate Societies that the lecture-slide maker gave Beale for sure.

From 1873 to 1886, "Professor" Beale made hundreds of such, accurate work drawings, all measuring at least more than a foot square, which were a favorite for the magic-lantern business. Beale died in 1886, aged 61. A few years later, the slide master sold his collection of 1,700 original Beale's. Museum in New York and Washington have shown them. Henry Ford has bought some.

Many Beale drawings were made to illustrate historical stories (Washington, Jefferson) or main places of U.S. history: its houses, railroad stations, streets, even its saloons

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JOSEPH BEALE

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## The Great Magic Lantern Artist continued



### A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

Terry Borton	Brian Rogers
Ron Easterday	Joel Schlemowitz
Dawn Elliott	Matt Schnittke
David Evans	

### Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?



## Conference of the Conservatory of Techniques of the French Cinematheque

**Friday November 10, 5 p.m., Georges Franju Room**

French Cinematheque, 51 rue de Bercy Paris 7th

Something new on Gaumont!

The online database of Gaumont filmography, by Manuela Padoan and Emmanuelle Champomier;



The 58mm films of the Gaumont company, 1896-1897, by Laurent Mannoni

Presentation on stage of the extremely rare 58mm reversible camera Biographe Gaumont (1896)

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<http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/collection.html>